(c) and (d) Intelligence agencies have been alerted along Rajasthari border. Modem arms and equipments have also been provided to the border guarding forces for effective vigil on the borders.

Pending Mercy Petitions

1547. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of mercy petitions filed under Article 72of the Constitution on behalf of the convicts awarded death penalty since 1980-81, indicating the number of petitions pending at the beginning of the year and additions during the year;

(b) the average time taken in processing and disposing of a petition; and

(c) the details of the instances where the longest and the shortest time was taken in disposing of mercy petitions, indicating the dates of filing and disposal of applications, identities of the convicts and applicants in respective cases, and the names of the President and Home Minister at the relevant periods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) A statement containing the details of the number of mercy petitions filed under Article 72 of the Constitution on behalf of the convicts awarded death penalty since 1980-81, indicating the number of petitions pending at the beginning of the year and additions during the year is enclosed *(see* below).

(b) The average time taken in processing and disposing of a mercy petition has been about 4 to 5 years.

(c) There are 23 cases involving 44 condemned prisoners pending for disposal A few of them are pending since January, 1998. The names of Hon'ble Presidents and Home Ministers and their tenure are in public knowledge.

Statement

Disposal of Mercy petitions

Year	No. of petitions/cases at the beginning of the year	Additions during the year
1980	—	7
1981	7	5
1982	11	9
1983	20	7
1984	4	6
1985	6	10
1986	16	6
1987	22	3
1988	25	4
1989	—	6
1990	2	3
1991	1	2
1992	—	3
1993	—	—
1994	—	6
1995	3	—
1996	—	5
1997	3	1
1998	1	3
1999	4	9
2000	13	—
2001	13	1
2002	14	1
2003	15	4
2004	19	4
2005	23	1
2006	24	—